

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10 of the Substitute Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--A vehicle impact typically produces an acceleration (or velocity or pressure) in the x- (201) and y- (202) direction. Should a vehicle impact occur, these accelerations are detected by at least one of sensors 3 to 5. These accelerations in the x-direction and y-direction are each integrated (203, 204) into a velocity (degraded vehicle velocity DV), and a mean value is generated therefrom. This so-called degraded velocity DV or its mean value usually is used as measure for the impact severity.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21 of the Substitute Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--Furthermore, according to the present invention the degraded vehicle velocity, which is calculated from the maximum of the calculated x, y integrals of the measured acceleration, is utilized as a measure of the crash severity. These values for the crash severity are stored (206), for instance in a maximum amount memory. Following a vehicle impact, the content of the maximum-amount memory may be compared (208) to a threshold specified by the vehicle manufacturer, which was determined in crash tests, for instance, which are conducted anyway. This comparison is implemented in comparator 7. If the predefined threshold is exceeded, control unit 2 or diagnostic device 6 will generate an error signal (210), which is indicated to the vehicle user in the form of a warning light 8, for example. In addition or as an alternative, this error-function signal may also be read out in a service facility by a service-facility testing device. Therefore, if a function-error signal is output, this indicates that airbag control unit 2 and/or the respective sensors 3 to 5 must be exchanged. If the maximum amount remains below the predefined threshold, and if control unit 2 or sensors 3 to 5 exhibit no faults in an internal self-test, the individual device may remain in the vehicle since it is considered fully functional.--.